U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535
JAN [illegible]

Ms. [illegible]
105 [illegible]
Bethany, CT [illegible]

Request No. 369150-001

Re: Sidney Kaufman

Dear Ms. Weber:

This is in reference to the Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request noted above.

Unfortunately, due to our limited resources and thousands of requests on hand, we are unable to give you a definite date of when this request will be assigned. At the end of November, 1994, our total requests numbered over ______ with an estimated 2.2 million pages to review. We assign our requests for processing based on the date of receipt consistent with sound administrative practices. We have this request filed in our backlog of unassigned requests by the date of January 5, 1994, the date we received it. We are currently assigning cases we received in February, 1992 and, therefore, you can expect an extensive delay in assignment.

In recent years, the FBI has experienced a general increase in the level of new FOIPA requests. At the same time, we have not had sufficient resources to address this increase or the backlog of work on hand. Repeated efforts by the FBI to obtain additional resources through the annual budget process have not been successful. The FOIPA Section has also been obligated to comply with court deadlines and other legislation, requiring the expenditure of a large number of resources on a limited number of requests. These court deadlines and other legislation have further exacerbated an already bad backlog situation, causing additional delays in the assignment of work.

We have enclosed a copy of the guidelines issued by the Department of Justice that set forth criteria for accelerated processing if a requester can demonstrate exceptional need or urgency. The circumstances surrounding this request do not appear to qualify for expedite handling and to assign it out of turn would be unfair to the other requesters who submitted their requests earlier.